



## *Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations*

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Statement by H.E. Mr. Yukio Takasu  
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations  
At informal plenary of the General Assembly on Security Council reform  
19 February 2009, New York

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this meeting of an informal plenary of the General Assembly to commence intergovernmental negotiations. We are grateful for your commitment and Ambassador Tanin's dedication to achieve decisive progress in Security Council reform.

I would like to express deep appreciation to you for the work plan you prepared for us, as promised at the last informal plenary on 29 January 2009.

Mr. President,

Japan welcomes the schedule of work for substantive negotiations as contained in the work plan. Reform of the Security Council to better reflect the reality of the contemporary world is long overdue after 15 years consultations and preparatory work.

As the President stated in his letter, we should make use of the current window of opportunity to make decisive progress. Therefore, we welcome your plan to embark upon intensive, substantive negotiations on 4 March with sense of urgency.

Your letter of 18 February adequately clarifies the objective of Security Council reform as well as procedural issues such as the arrangement of each meeting, the record of meetings, the formal decision at the plenary of the General Assembly and applicable rules of procedures. These understandings are fair and reasonable because they are in strict conformity with paragraph 153 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and GA decision 62/557. We see no merit in reopening these procedural issues now and distracting ourselves from entering into substantive negotiations.

We also support the work plan to organize negotiations on each of all of the five key issues in an orderly sequence at the first round and then move on to the second round when all elements will be negotiated as a whole. Negotiations should always be conducted in an open, inclusive and transparent manner in an informal plenary. Such a method of negotiations would be most equitable and beneficial to maintain the integrity of the negotiation process.

Concerning the basis for negotiations, the work plan envisages that GA decision 62/557 paragraph (e) sub-paragraph i and iii constitute the substantive basis for meetings, and the options presented by the Member States as contained in document A/62/47 should form the basis for negotiations when they start.

It would be helpful if a concise composite paper would be prepared before 4 March 2009 along the lines envisaged in the work plan, containing options for the five clusters of key issues, incorporating all of the positions of and proposals by Member States. On the basis of such a paper, we could make substantive progress, showing the necessary flexibility in order to narrow differences among Member States.

Mr. President,

Thanks to your leadership, we have now arrived at a new stage in the reform process. Japan, together with other delegations, will make the utmost effort to follow your work plan and engage constructively in the substantive negotiations, in good faith and with mutual respect. We will seek a solution that can garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States in order to achieve meaningful reform of the Security Council.

Thank you, Mr. President.